

Fine Arts Conservation

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Portraits

STAT

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After looking at the Directors' portraits and learning a little of their history from you, I would organize them in this way --

- a. There are 4 portraits that have been excessively and badly overpainted in a previous treatment. While this is not conspicuous in each case it is very unsightly in 2 of them. In the event the overpaint was done in oils it would be easier to remove the more recently it was done. In this group are:
Vandenberg Hillenkoetter
Smith Raborn
- b. There are 4 portraits with varnish problems brought about by drastic changes in environment (temperature, relative humidity, direct sunlight) causing "bloom", the white cloudiness visible in scattered areas. Although the paintings are now hung in space that is much better controlled climate-wise, the past reaction of the varnish will not undo itself, and the varnish will need to be removed and replaced. In this group are:
Vandenberg Raborn
Smith Helms
- c. There are 6 portraits that appear to be all right as is:
Donovan Schlesinger
Souers Colby
Dulles Bush

You may wish to put Helms into this group as well, since the areas of bloom are so slight (small area above his proper left shoulder).

Specifically, my estimated costs are as follows:

1. Vice Admiral Raborn Very bad deterioration of varnish, especially in and around the face. The entire coat has been repainted causing considerable loss of detail. Varnish and overpaint should be removed and surface revarnished . . . \$600.00
2. Rear Admiral Hillenkoetter The entire coat has been repainted causing loss of detail, modelling, etc. Varnish and overpaint should be removed, surface revarnished. In this particular case there is no need to re-do the varnish but it would be necessary in order to remove the overpaint.

\$550.00

3/12/84 FAC
meeting

3. Lt. Gen. Vandenberg The background has been repainted, changing considerably the original intent of the artist. Varnish deterioration is limited to small areas around the face. Optimum treatment would be to remove varnish and repaint and revarnish the surface . . . \$550.00
To remove & replace varnish only \$ 400.00
4. Gen. Smith The varnish bloom seems to be found in small areas in the coat. Overpaint in the coat obliterates detail. Optimum treatment would be to remove varnish and repaint and revarnish the surface . . . \$550.00
To remove & replace varnish only \$400.00

I hope this is clear but if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me. I am enclosing my bill for the consultation.

Very truly yours,

Rosamond Westmoreland

Rosamond W. Westmoreland